

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, and 9 are independent. Claims 3, 7, 11, 13, and 14 have been cancelled herein; Claims 2, 6 and 10 were previously cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Support for the amendments can be found at least at pages 27 and 28 of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is presented.

Claim Rejection

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7 through 9, and 11 through 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sugimoto (U.S. Patent No. 7,298,522).

The rationale underlying the rejection is succinctly set forth in the Office Action.

Response to Claim Rejection

Amended Claim 1 recites an image forming apparatus including a determination unit for determining whether or not a toner application rate for an object contained in input data exceeds a predefined toner reduction rate if the type of the object is formed uniformly of a designated color; a processing unit for applying reduction processing to the designated color of the object so

that the toner application rate falls within the predefined toner reduction rate when it is determined that the toner application rate on the object exceeds the predefined toner reduction rate; and a rasterizing unit for rasterizing the object using the color obtained by applying the reduction processing to the designated color.

With the claimed invention, it is not necessary to apply toner reduction to every pixel in an object. Accordingly, processing can be completed faster because only the designated color of the object is converted by the toner reduction. Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in these claims. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 5, and 9, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art.

Sugimoto discloses a print control system with a toner save process. The system distinguishes an attribute of target data between character, graphic and image data types; selects a toner save process in accordance with the data type; selects a lookup table to be used for a toner save process; and performs a color conversion in based on the selected lookup table.

Although Sugimoto teaches color conversion using different lookup tables corresponding to respective types of data, Sugimoto does not disclose or suggest that if the type of the object is formed uniformly of a designated color, the processing unit applies reduction processing to the designated color of the object so that the toner application rate falls within the predefined toner reduction rate when it is determined that the toner application rate on the object exceeds the predefined toner reduction rate. Accordingly, Sugimoto does not disclose that an amount of toner applied to an object is lower than a predefined amount, i.e., a predefined toner reduction rate.

It is respectfully submitted that Sugimoto does not disclose all of claimed features of the invention and, therefore, does not anticipate the claimed invention, as set forth in the currently amended claims.

Amended independent Claims 5 and 9 are method and computer-program stored on a computer-readable medium claims, respectively, that have been formulated on the basis of amended apparatus Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that currently amended Claims 5 and 9 are also allowable over Sugimoto for at least the same reasons given above with respect to amended Claim 1.

Dependent Claims

Claims 4, 8, and 12 are either directly or indirectly dependent from one of independent Claims 1, 5 and 9 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining the invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

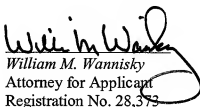
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record, and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the application are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no fee is required for this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be deemed necessary in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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